

Easterling, Deborah

From: Easterling, Deborah
Sent: Tuesday, August 04, 2015 2:36 PM
To:
Subject: RE: Duke Power Transmission Plan, docket number ND-2015-20-E.

Dear Michael T. and Arcada F. McCoy,

This is to acknowledge receipt of your email to the Public Service Commission of South Carolina. Your email will become a part of ND-2015-20-E - Duke Energy Carolinas: Foothills Transmission and Substation Project- 45-Mile Transmission Line Between Asheville, NC, Power Plant and New Substation Near Campobello, SC, and will be posted on our website under this docket.

Please let me know if you should require any additional information.

Sincerely,

Deborah Easterling
Administrative Coordinator

From: Boyd, Jocelyn
Sent: Tuesday, August 04, 2015 10:20 AM
To: Easterling, Deborah; Duke, Daphne; DeSanty, Tricia
Subject: FW: Duke Power Transmission Plan, docket number ND-2015-20-E.

From: Ted McCoy [<mailto:>]
Sent: Monday, August 03, 2015 7:31 PM
To: Boyd, Jocelyn
Subject: Duke Power Transmission Plan, docket number ND-2015-20-E.

Dear Ms. Boyd:

This is to express our opposition to the proposed Western Carolinas Modernization Project currently being planned by Duke Energy to supply additional power to the Asheville, NC area from upstate SC.

We attended a public presentation by Duke on July 21 in Landrum, SC, where its proposed alternative routes for a new 230 kV transmission line were shown to the public. The numerous alternative routes were based on the assumption that a new transmission substation must be built at the intersection of SC Highway 11 and I-26 near Campobello. No alternatives were presented for other possible substation locations, which logically should also be a consideration.

The proposed routes would all have 140-foot tall transmission towers marching through one of the most scenic and environmentally important areas of upstate SC. This project, if approved, will adversely impact the Cherokee Foothills National Scenic Byway (SC Hwy. 11), property values and resulting tax revenue from a growing multi-million dollar equine industry, numerous conservation and historical tracts in the area, and the property of many ordinary citizens.

Duke has posed the question of "how?" to route this transmission line to Asheville, but this is a red herring; the real question should be "why?":

1. According to the NC Waste Awareness Reduction Network and the US Energy Information Administration, Duke currently has significant excess generating capacity in both Carolinas. Both these groups predict demand for electricity to be flat for the foreseeable future.
2. Duke shareholders were told in November 2013 by its CEO that the utility anticipates sales growth to be only in the 0.5 to 1.0% range and is expected to be flat for the foreseeable future. They now say it's 15%, a rather large and questionable disparity.
3. Duke is a regulated monopoly and is guaranteed a rate of return on investment in infrastructure, which it continues to do based on conflicting projections. Duke will make money on this project in the absence of a clearly demonstrated need, while citizens and businesses will face condemnation and loss of land value.
4. There are viable options to satisfy any additional power needs for Asheville, if in fact necessary, including building a small natural gas plant, purchase of electrical power on the market for a profit or development of alternative energy sources.

We urge you to oppose the approval of this project.

Sincerely,

Michael T. and Arcada F. McCoy, 